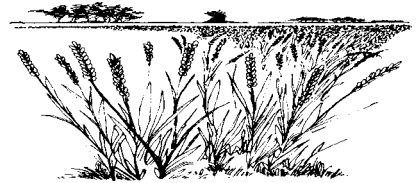


California Field Crop Review



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MARCH 1, 2000 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

The **California** March intentions estimates were based on a survey of nearly 2,000 California farmers. The survey was conducted March 1-15, but referred to farmers' intentions on **March 1**. Therefore, the impact of weather or market conditions since that date is not reflected in this report.

COTTON: On March 1, **California** farmers were intending to plant 800 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2000. If realized, this would be 31 percent above the acreage seeded in 1999. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 175 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 2000. This would be 27 percent below the 240 thousand acres planted last year. **Nationally**, all cotton plantings for 2000 are expected to total 15.6 million acres, 5 percent above 1999 and up 2.17 million acres from 1998.

CORN: **California** farmers were expected to plant 2 percent more corn for all purposes in 2000. This would be a total of 560 thousand acres of corn. **U.S.** corn growers intend to plant 77.9 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2000, up 1 percent from last year, but down 3 percent from 1998.

OATS: On March 1, farmers in **California** had planted or expected to plant 265 thousand acres of oats, 4 percent less than last year. **U.S.** producers planned to seed 4.35 million acres of oats in 2000, 7 percent below the 4.67 million acres seeded for 1999. Growers stated intentions to harvest 2.47 million acres for grain in 2000.

WHEAT: In **California**, winter wheat has been seeded on 500 thousand acres, the same as the previous year. Another 80.0 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 11 percent below the 90.0 thousand acres seeded for 1999. At the **U.S.** level, 2000's all wheat planted area is expected to total 61.7 million acres, down 2 percent from 1999. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 43.2 million acres, down less than 1 percent. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 3.61 million acres, a decrease of 11 percent from last year.

RICE: **California** farmers intended to seed rice on 565 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 5 percent more than the 540 thousand acres seeded in 1999. The expressed intentions were to seed 520 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 5.00 thousand to long grain, and 40.0 thousand to short grain varieties. Last year, farmers seeded 475 thousand acres to medium grain, 5.00 thousand to long grain, and 60.0 thousand to short grain varieties. **Nationally**, growers intended to seed 3.40 million acres this year, a decrease of 5 percent from last year.

BARLEY: On March 1, **California** farmers had planted or intended to plant 130 thousand acres to barley, 24 percent less than the previous year. **U.S.** growers intended to seed 5.73 million acres for 2000, up 10 percent from last year.

SUGAR BEETS: **California** producers intended to plant 110 thousand acres of sugar beets, as of March 1. This is 2 percent less seeded acreage than 1999. **Nationally**, the area planted to sugar beets for the 2000 crop year is expected to total 1.58 million acres, 1 percent above the 1999 crop year. If growers' intentions are realized, planted acres will increase in six of the 12 sugar beet producing states.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 120 thousand acres in **California**. This would be 11 percent less than the 135 thousand acres seeded last year. **Nationally**, farmers intend to plant 1.84 million acres of dry edible beans in 2000, down 9 percent from both last year and two years ago.

ALL HAY: **California** producers intended to harvest hay from 1.54 million acres as of March 1. This is 2 percent below the 1.57 million acres harvested last year. **U.S.** producers were expecting to harvest 63.1 million acres of hay in 2000, compared to 63.2 million acres in 1999.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	1998	1999	Ind. 2000	2000 1999
	1,000 Acres			Percent
Wheat (Winter) 1/				
California	500.0	500.0	500.0	100
U.S.	46,449.0	43,431.0	43,245.0	100
Wheat, Durum				
California 1/	180.0	90.0	80.0	89
U.S.	3,805.0	4,035.0	3,610.0	89
Oats 1/				
California	320.0	275.0	265.0	96
U.S.	4,892.0	4,670.0	4,351.0	93
Barley 1/				
California	170.0	170.0	130.0	76
U.S.	6,337.0	5,223.0	5,733.0	110
Corn, All				
California	600.0	550.0	560.0	102
U.S.	80,165.0	77,431.0	77,881.0	101
Rice				
Calif.: All	480.0	540.0	565.0	105
Long	9.0	5.0	5.0	100
Medium	435.0	475.0	520.0	109
Short	36.0	60.0	40.0	67
U.S.: All	3,345.0	3,581.0	3,395.0	95
Long	2,629.0	2,751.0	2,535.0	92
Medium	678.0	768.0	816.0	106
Short	38.0	62.0	44.0	71
Cotton, Upland				
California	650.0	610.0	800.0	131
U.S.	13,064.3	14,565.0	15,341.0	105
Cotton, Amer.-Pima				
California	200.0	240.0	175.0	73
U.S.	328.2	290.0	217.0	75
Dry Edible Beans 2/				
California	110.0	135.0	120.0	89
U.S.	2,014.1	2,023.0	1,836.7	91
Sugar Beets				
California 3/	101.0	112.0	110.0	98
U.S.	1,497.8	1,562.7	1,577.5	101
Hay, All 4/				
California	1,630.0	1,570.0	1,540.0	98
U.S.	60,076.0	63,160.0	63,052.0	100

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

2/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

3/ Relates to year of intended harvest, except for over-wintered spring planted beets.

4/ Area harvested.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - MARCH 2000

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for wheat, winter potatoes, all types of hay, and Upland cotton lint. Barley, dry edible beans, all potatoes, and fall potatoes were below the February 2000 price. Prices were above a year earlier for all potatoes, hay other than alfalfa, and Upland cotton lint. Dry edible beans, winter potatoes, fall potatoes, all hay, and alfalfa hay were below March 1999's level.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES FOUR POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 96 based on 1990-92=100, up four points (4.3 percent) from the February index. Higher prices for lettuce, cattle, broilers, and broccoli more than offset price decreases for eggs, strawberries, celery, and apples. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities that farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of strawberries, milk, broilers, and tomatoes more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges. These marketing changes accounted for one point of the March index increase.

Compared with March 1999, the All Farm Products Index was unchanged. Price decreases from March 1999 for milk, oranges, eggs, and rice offset price increases for hogs, cattle, lettuce, and calves.

The March All Crops Index was 96, up 6.7 percent from February, but 2 percent below March 1999. Price increases from February for vegetables, feed grains, hay, cotton, and oilseeds more than offset price decreases for fruit, nuts, and tobacco.

The March Food Grains Index, at 86, was up 1.2 percent from the previous month, but 13 percent below March 1999. The March all wheat price, at \$4.28 per cwt., was up 5 cents from the February price, but 14 cents below March 1999. The rice price, at \$5.99 per cwt., was up 1 cent from last month, but \$2.94 below a year earlier.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index was 90, up 2.3 percent from last month, but 2.2 percent below March 1999. The corn price, at \$3.63 per cwt., was up 9 cents from February, but 5 cents below the March 1999 price. The all hay price, at \$74.80 per ton, was up \$2.20 from last month, but \$4.20 below March 1999.

The March Cotton Index, at 79, was up 3.9 percent from February, but was 13 percent below March 1999. The cotton price, at 47.8 cents per pound, was up 1.9 cents from February, but down 7.3 cents from last March. Strong foreign demand is pushing prices upward.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS ^{a/}

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 1999	February 2000	March 2000	March 1999	February 2000	March 2000
		Dollars					
Corn ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.68	3.54	3.63
Wheat ^{b/}	Cwt.	^{c/}	4.25	4.33	4.42	4.23	4.28
Oats ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.75	3.97	4.00
Barley ^{b/}	Cwt.	^{c/}	5.10	4.69	4.17	4.44	4.46
Sorghum Grain ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.16	3.08	3.28
Rice ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	8.93	5.98	5.99
Dry Edible Beans ^{b/}	Cwt.	39.40	26.80	26.70	17.00	16.00	14.70
All Potatoes ^{d/}	Cwt.	12.90	14.00	13.60	6.12	5.96	6.32
Winter	Cwt.	21.90	19.30	20.60	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	7.45	6.65	6.50	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	105.00	89.00	91.00	79.00	72.60	74.80
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	109.00	91.00	92.00	83.20	77.40	78.00
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	37.00	70.00	78.00	67.40	66.70	66.70
Upland Cotton Lint ^{b/}	Lb.	0.565	0.608	0.665	0.551	0.459	0.478
Cottonseed	Ton	---	137.00	---	---	108.00	---

^{a/} The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

^{b/} Previous month revised to monthly average.

^{c/} Not published to avoid possible disclosure.

^{d/} Monthly average.

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	March 1999	February 2000	March 2000	March 1999	February 2000	March 2000
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	612	586 ^{a/}	608	96	92	96
All Crops	486	445 ^{a/}	474	98	90 ^{a/}	96
Food Grains	313	272 ^{a/}	274	99	85 ^{a/}	86
Feed Grains and Hay	328	314 ^{a/}	323	92	88 ^{a/}	90
Cotton	466	388 ^{a/}	404	91	76 ^{a/}	79
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	497	502 ^{a/}	524	98	99 ^{a/}	104
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates ^{b/}	1,525	1,589 ^{a/}	1,597	115	119	120
Parity Ratio ^{c/}	40	37	38	83	77	80

^{a/} Revised.

^{b/} All production indexes as of 15th of month.

^{c/} Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

GRAIN STOCKS

On March 1, 2000, **California** wheat stocks in all positions were 12 percent below a year earlier. Barley off-farm stocks were down 28 percent from 1999. Off-farm corn stocks decreased 24 percent. Oats totaled 2.13 thousand tons and sorghum grain totaled 4.87 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1. **U.S.** wheat stocks in all positions were 3 percent below a year earlier as of March 1. Corn stocks were down 2 percent and barley stocks were down 15 percent. U.S. oat stocks in all positions totaled 1.62 million tons and sorghum grain stocks totaled 6.30 million tons.

GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)

Grain and Position	Mar. 1, 1999	Dec. 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 2000
	Tons		
ALL WHEAT			
California			
On-Farm	48,000	21,000	15,000
Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	387,810	557,820	369,450
Total	435,810	578,820	384,450
U.S. Total	43,512,330	56,568,330	42,371,430
BARLEY			
California			
Off-Farm <u>1/ 2/</u>	79,536	64,224	57,000
U.S. Total	4,816,992	5,501,304	4,084,392
OATS			
California			
Off Farm <u>1/ 2/</u>	7,008	1,936	2,128
U.S. Total	1,800,800	2,175,552	1,622,768
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm <u>1/ 2/</u>	260,820	339,192	197,400
U.S. Total	159,555,984	224,691,628	156,954,812
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm <u>1/ 2/</u>	5,796	6,188	4,872
U.S. Total	6,228,208	9,756,236	6,301,904

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

2/ California on-farm stocks and total stocks for barley, corn, oats and sorghum are included in United States totals.

OFF-FARM RICE STOCKS

Stocks of milled rice stored in **California** mills and warehouses on March 1, 2000 totaled 1.30 million cwt., 26 percent above the 1.03 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 47 percent of the total milled rice in storage. **Nationally**, milled rice stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 4.57 million cwt., 5 percent above last year.

California rough rice stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 17.0 million cwt. This was 9 percent above the 15.6 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Warehouses accounted for 14.4 million cwt., with the remainder in mill storage.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Mar. 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 2000
	1,000 Cwt.			
ROUGH RICE TOTAL	15,596	16,954	80,250	90,225
Long Grain <u>1/</u>	---	---	57,636	62,743
Medium Grain	13,872	14,611	21,329	25,381
Short Grain <u>1/</u>	---	---	1,285	2,101
MILLED RICE TOTAL	1,028	1,297	4,344	4,570
Whole Kernels Total	926	604	3,537	3,310
Long Grain	16	37	2,361	2,506
Medium Grain	879	521	1,114	758
Short Grain	31	46	62	46
Broken Kernels Total	102	693	807	1,260
Second Heads <u>2/</u>	88	640	612	937
Screenings	---	---	92	85
Brewers	14	53	103	238

1/ California data not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.

2/ California figure includes screenings.

CALIFORNIA OFF-FARM ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
	1,000 Cwt.		
October 1 (Carryover) <u>1/</u>	4,515	4,747	1,412
December 1	34,664	27,337	29,294
March 1	23,670	15,596	16,954
August 1	11,697	4,112	

1/ Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS

California fall potato stocks as of April 1, 2000 were estimated at 1.40 million cwt., 17 percent more than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 35 percent of the 1999 fall production, compared to 32 percent of the previous year.

The **15 major potato states** held 128 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2000, down 3 percent from last year and 5 percent below 1998. Stocks accounted for 30 percent of 1999 fall production, down 1 percent from a year ago. Disappearance of 293 million cwt. for the season is slightly above last year and 5 percent above 1998. Processing totaled 146 million cwt., down 2 percent from last year, but 6 percent above 1998.

Western states held 97.2 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2000, up 1 percent from last year, but 4 percent below 1998. Oregon's stocks were up 29 percent from a year ago, but were offset by a 5 percent decline in Washington and a 4 percent drop in Idaho. Stocks in the three northwest states were the same as last year and accounted for 66 percent of U. S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 9 percent and California's were up 17 percent from last year. Montana's stocks, mostly seed, were off 5 percent.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS BY STATE 1/

State	Crop of 1998			Crop of 1999		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of
		Apr. 1, 1999 <u>2/</u>	Production		Apr. 1, 2000 <u>2/</u>	Production
	1,000 Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	3,708	1,200	32	4,005	1,400	35
Colorado	25,360	9,300	37	25,762	10,100	39
Idaho	138,000	52,000	38	133,330	50,000	38
Maine	18,060	6,000	33	17,813	7,200	40
Michigan	14,648	2,200	15	14,963	2,700	18
Minnesota	21,170	6,700	32	18,020	4,700	26
Montana	3,180	1,740	55	3,325	1,650	50
Nebraska	8,175	---	---	8,904	---	---
New York	7,290	350	5	6,758	350	5
North Dakota	28,670	10,500	37	26,400	6,200	23
Ohio	1,200	---	---	987	---	---
Oregon	26,229	10,500	40	28,020	13,500	48
Pennsylvania	3,360	420	13	3,080	560	18
Washington	93,225	21,500	23	95,200	20,500	22
Wisconsin	30,895	7,800	25	34,000	7,300	21
Other States	---	1,010	---	---	1,410	---
15-STATE TOTAL	423,170	131,220	31	420,567	127,570	30

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 200 potatoes; 1999 crop seed usage totaled 29.5 million cwt.

2/ Nebraska and Ohio combined into "Other States."

SPRING POTATOES

California production of spring potatoes is forecast at 6.63 million cwt., 13 percent below last year. Harvested acreage, at 19.5 thousand, is up 3 percent from 1999. The yield is forecast at 340 cwt. per acre, 60 cwt. above last year. Cool, wet weather in February slowed germination and growth in some areas, although most of the crop is progressing normally. Harvest should start in late April or early May and continue through mid-July.

U.S. program changes for crop year 2000 combines Alabama spring production with their summer estimate and will be published in June. North Carolina combined their spring and summer estimates into the spring forecast. Spring production in 2000 is forecast at 21.4 million cwt., down 15 percent from comparable totals last year, but 2 percent above 1998. Area for harvest is estimated at 80,800 acres, down 4 percent from last year and 11 percent short of 1998. The average yield is forecast at 264 cwt. per acre, down 36 cwt. from last year's comparable yield, but up 31 cwt. from two years ago.

SPRING POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production		
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
	1,000 Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.		
Alabama <u>1/</u>	1.7	---	1.6	---	175	---	221	280	---
Arizona	10.0	11.0	9.6	11.0	315	290	2,268	3,024	3,190
California	19.0	19.5	19.0	19.5	400	340	6,198	7,600	6,630
Florida	28.8	25.0	28.0	24.0	315	250	7,358	8,820	6,000
Hastings	21.5	17.5	21.0	17.0	330	250	5,758	6,930	4,250
Other	7.3	7.5	7.0	7.0	270	250	1,600	1,890	1,750
No. Carolina <u>2/</u>	17.0	17.5	16.5	17.0	200	200	3,325	3,300	3,400
Texas	10.3	9.8	9.8	9.3	235	230	1,751	2,303	2,139
U.S. TOTAL	86.8	82.8	84.5	80.8	300	264	21,121	25,327	21,359

1/ Spring estimates to be combined with summer starting with 2000 crop year.

2/ Summer estimates combined with spring starting with 2000 crop year.